

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
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"CERTAIN FACTS OF LIFE."

The Chairman of the Department of International Affairs, Ernest A. Gross, in an address before the New York State Bankers Association, January 24, 1955, set forth what he described as "certain facts of life," related to the search for security. The following quotes will be of interest to the readers of our Newsletter:

"Our real security depends upon accepting certain facts of life.

"1. Accept the fact that there are no detours off the long road to security.

"It may appear cynical and defeatist - we are all entitled to our personal views on this matter - but I believe the best we have in prospect is two generations of tension. In view of the news of the day, I would add that I believe this is also the worst we have in prospect, if we use time wisely. I do not hold with those who believe world war is inevitable or even likely.

"Of course, there have been wars of succession and often in history tyrannies have been overthrown by popular uprising. One does not give up such hopes by preparing for the worst.

"However, in a world threatened by Communist imperialism and seething with vast drives to abolish poverty and achieve national aspirations, there are many who are prone to seek an easy answer. That answer is frequently negative and usually involves a substitute for effort.

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"For example: it is not easy to use the United Nations imaginatively, constructively and in our highest national self-interest. It is entirely proper to use it as a lightning-rod, for problems too hot to handle at home, or too risky to deal with unilaterally. This is one of the highest values of the organization. However, to make it possible to carry such loads without blowing all the fuses, it is essential that it be constantly charged with support and confidence. It should be used for popular and broadly-based economic programs as well as for the strategic crisis and the political headache.

"It should be used as a forum for steady efforts to explore settlement of specific issues and for timely consultation with our allies.

"The United Nations Charter embodies vital security guarantees against aggression. It has been called 'the most solemn peace pact of history'.

"Separate pacts and regional arrangements are wholly legal under the Charter and fill a great need. However, they do not really add to the sum of security unless they are conceived and carried out as bulwarks of the Charter. This is particularly true of such a pact as the South East Asia Treaty, which sets up no military command or strategic planning, as does NATO. The only real security value of SEATO is moral, and that will be only an illusion unless it is thought of by the people of Asia as a buttress of the United Nations, rather than as a retreat from the United Nations.

"2. Accept the fact that appeasement will not work and that adhering to moral principle pays off.

"However, you must define 'moral principle' honestly. There are too many who are ready to pin labels of appeasement upon our allies. They denounce our friends for differing from us in such matters as recognition of Red China or trade with Communist areas, as if the price of our friendship were subservience to our policies. I happen to oppose seating the Chinese Communists in the United Nations and have repeatedly clashed with the Soviet representatives on the issue. But I do not feel we do ourselves a favor by accusing our friends of base motives if they take a contrary view. All we do thereby is to dissipate a priceless asset with which we start - a widespread respect for our own motives and confidence in our own integrity.

"3. Accept the fact that large expenditures and other sacrifices are essential to begin filling up the economic vacuums in large parts of the world.

"This requires prudent use of the many international agencies which exist to preserve the values in which we believe. It does not mean opening up breadlines in Burma and soup-kitchens in Sumatra.

"It means support for land reform programs and greatly enlarged technical assistance. We should treble the \$13,000,000 contribution to the United Nations Technical Aid Program. This has only one purpose: To help the people in these depressed areas help themselves to increase their food production and output of needed goods and **services.**

"4. Finally, accept the fact that freedom has a moral - as well as an economic and political - foundation.

"I believe we can serve as the well-spring for spiritual strength in the world, if we are true to our own traditions at home.

"There is a law of behavior which is just as true of nations as of individuals:

"It is not possible to reserve one standard of conduct for oneself and apply another standard in dealing with others.

"This is really a way of looking at the Golden Rule - you do unto others pretty much what you can do unto yourself.

"If we are divided at home, misled by demagogues and taking flight from reality, that will be our posture in the world as well.

"I have tried to show that the slogan of co-existence is related to the Communist effort to buy time. It is a traditional part of their doctrine that time is on their side, and that we will go down in the end.

"This is true only if we make it so. There are only two kinds of men in the world: those who are free - and those who want to be free. Therefore, if we lead in the effort to build the foundations of freedom in the world - moral, political and economic - time serves us.

"In fact, we have no choice. It is not possible for us to surrender leadership. In the world of today that is precluded. The only thing we could do would be to transfer it to the enemies of freedom."

THE PARIS AGREEMENTS

The churches are following with deep interest current developments related to the so-called Paris Agreements. It will be recalled that in Paris, last October, the Western Foreign Ministers signed a number of agreements designed to give Germany (a) equal status, (b) membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and (c) together with Italy, a place in the Western European Union. In addition, France and Germany agreed to Europeanize the Saar.

On December 30 the French National Assembly, by a vote of 287-260, ratified the four agreements. The pacts now go to the French upper house, the Council of the Republic, for approval.

Meanwhile, the Parliaments of Iceland, Norway, and Britain have completed approval of the Paris Agreements, the Italian Chamber of Deputies has approved the Western European Union, and the German Bundestag has voted for WEU after the first reading. Action required by the U.S. Senate will be approval of the agreements giving equal status and a place in NATO to Germany.

Following the action of the French National Assembly President Eisenhower said, "The recent series of actions taken by the French Assembly is a matter of great gratification, not only to the United States but to the entire free world. There are, of course, further steps to be taken . . . before a satisfactory foundation for Western Defense has been achieved. But of particular importance is the fact that the French Deputies . . . have now voted to ratify the new treaties."

OHIO LOOKS AT THE WORLD

The 36th Ohio Pastors' Convention, in session in Columbus, January 24-27, took a look at ourselves and the world and came up with certain resolutions of interest to readers of the Newsletter. Some two thousand pastors were in attendance. It was their belief that "the greatest opponent to Communism is the Protestant Church." They expressed their faith in "the eventual defeat of Communism by the spiritual forces of Christianity both from without and within the currently occupied countries, including Russia itself."

The Ohio Pastors then went on to say, in part:

"We continue to affirm our hearty support of the United Nations and urge our churches to inform their members concerning the various programs of the United Nations. While we recognize the halting progress of this international organization, we rejoice in the progress which has been made in the nine years of its existence...

"We are especially encouraged by our government's action in making fissionable material available for the positive good of mankind through the 'Atoms for Peace' program. No single action or contribution of the United States government is to our mind of comparable hope and promise. . .

"This is the year of possible Charter revision. Should such an official appraisal be voted, we urge the churches to help in creating a climate of calmness and wisdom so that if revision of the Charter is undertaken it be done in the direction of a stronger and more responsible United Nations.

"We urge our government to extend its financial support and enlargement of the technical assistance program of the United Nations.

"We recognize the serious problems which confront our country in the area of national security; we are also deeply concerned that in our desire for national security we do not commit the fatal error of undermining our moral and spiritual resources upon which, in the final analysis, our real security rests....

"We reaffirm our strong opposition to the establishment of any form of universal military training for this nation. Universal military training would create only an illusion of true security. It would saddle our nation with a military system which history has so clearly demonstrated is disastrous to the democratic way of life, is unchristian in its basic philosophy and its social outcome and would represent an ineffective use of manpower. We urge a close scrutiny of the expenditure of public funds by the Pentagon in seeking to influence both Congress and the people of the United States to accept further militarization of our country."

INDIANA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND UMT

The Assembly of the Indiana Council of Churches January 19 adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Indiana Council of Churches in session January 19, 1955 reaffirm its repeated opposition to permanent military conscription, especially to UMT, UMS or NST and to those proposals that would militarize American life. We urge that our constituent communions consider the issues involved and take whatever action they deem to be Christian and necessary.

METHODISTS SPEAK OUT

The Board of World Peace of the Methodist Church, in session in Cincinnati, January 12, 1955, adopted a series of resolutions on several issues including co-existence, the United Nations, and universal military training.

On the question of co-existence it was said: "The Board of World Peace endorses and pledges full support to persistent efforts on the part of governments to establish a modus vivendi which will enable the nations of the world to live together without recourse to war while they continue to seek solutions to the difficult problems of war and peace.

"In view of the almost total destruction of our civilization which would be sure to accompany a global war involving the use of our present power for waging warfare, the Board of World Peace of the Methodist Church believes all nations should pledge themselves never to resort to war as a method of settling international disputes.

"However apparently irreconcilable may be their philosophies or purposes, all nations should continue to negotiate using the established machinery of the United Nations until their differences are adjusted.

"This policy of so-called peaceful co-existence should be followed by all nations even though there be many years of stalemate."

On the question of the United Nations it was said: "As the United Nations approaches its 10th birthday, we wish to express our gratitude to God for its work for world peace through acts of reconciliation, relief of human misery, the establishment of human rights, and the advancement of colonial peoples.

"We strongly reject the counsel of some that we should lessen our support of the United Nations. On the contrary, we rejoice in the membership of the U. S. in the UN. . . .

"Realizing that the UN, like all human institutions, has weaknesses, we urge all governments to strengthen the organization by supporting with whole-hearted loyalty the present charter and current programs. As the 10th General Assembly draws near and the probability of a Charter Review Conference in 1956 appears likely, we recommend that local churches pay serious attention to the fourth theme of the Crusade for World Order -- Charter Review and Revision."

On the question of universal military training it was said: "The Methodist Church does not oppose conscription as a method of securing military manpower in time of war or threatened war. However, both the General Conference of the Methodist Church and its Council of Bishops have repeatedly opposed peacetime military training.

"The new proposals for military training and an expanded Reserve should be seen clearly for what they are: an entering wedge for a universal military training program. In reality, there are no 'volunteers' under these proposals. Every man who 'volunteers' does so only in preference to being drafted for two full years of military service. Nearly all young men would come under military control for a period of eight to ten years.

"The Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church now calls upon Methodists to oppose any system, by whatever name it may be called, that would fasten upon the American people a continuing and universal system of military training."

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN SPONSOR INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL TOUR

An international team of Protestant women, left February 18 for a two-month globe-girdling airplane journey aimed at creating greater unity of fellowship and prayer among Christian women around the world.

Some fifty leaders of United Church Women, which is sponsoring the tour, and of the National Council of Churches, witnessed a brief commissioning and dedication for three of the four team members. A fourth member will join the group in Djakarta, Indonesia. United Church Women is a general department of the Council.

The team will visit Christian women leaders in a dozen countries around the world "to determine what is the call of Christ to women of this generation; face together anew the demands of discipleship and see more clearly the responsibility of women in the Church today." The team will also extend an invitation to women leaders in the lands they visit to attend the Church Women's seventh biennial assembly, scheduled next Nov. 7-10 in Cleveland, Ohio.

On the first leg of the trip winging west from Los Angeles the team will be in the Fiji Islands to join with Christians there in observing the World Day of Prayer on February 25. The annual observance in this country, marked traditionally on the first Friday in Lent, is sponsored by UCW.

Speaking at the commissioning service Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, National Council president, told the team their trip "represents the symbol of the concern not only of the ten million Christian women affiliated with United Church Women, but also of the 35 million Christians who are members of the National Council's 30 cooperating communions."

The four-member team is headed by Mrs. James D. Wyker, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, national UCW president, and a member of the Department of International Affairs. Other members are Miss Josefina Phodaca, of Manila, the Philippines; Miss Felicia Sunderlal, of Dehra Dun, India, and Mrs. David D. Baker, editor of the UCW publication, The Church Woman.

On their tour the team will visit Hawaii, the Fiji Islands, Australia, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Germany. They will return to New York in mid-April.

"SLOW TO ANGER"

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 16:32.

It is customary for preachers to cite this admonition during periods of stress and strain. To do this is not news. It is news when a Secretary of State invokes this admonition. This is what Secretary of State Dulles did in his speech at the centennial inaugural luncheon of the Y.W.C.A. in New York, January 11.

Speaking at a time when UN Secretary-General Hammarskjold was in China seeking the release of the imprisoned American fliers Mr. Dulles said, in part: "The United Nations during this past year played a notable part in serving, as its Charter prescribes, as 'a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.' And we eagerly await the return from China of the Secretary-General and his report on the outcome of a United Nations mission which critically involves issues of humanity and justice. Our own nation makes its contribution to the peaceful settlement of these issues by heeding the Biblical injunction to be 'slow to anger.'"

A NEW ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kenneth L. Maxwell has come to the Department of International Affairs on February 15 as the Associate Executive Director. He succeeds Rev. Ernest W. Lefever who terminated his work with the Department on November 1, 1954, to write a Ph.D. thesis on Protestants and U. S. Foreign Policy: 1928-1953.

Since 1947 Dr. Maxwell has been the pastor of the Central Baptist Church of Hartford, Conn. Prior to that time he held pastorates in Van Wert, Ohio, Stratford, Conn., and Granville, Ohio. In 1951 he was President of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. His experience in the ecumenical movement has been wide and varied. He attended the World Council of Churches Assembly in Evanston. He attended the second Cleveland Conference on the Churches and World Order. He was a delegate of the American Baptist Convention to the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches in Denver, in 1952. For three years he was the Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Connecticut Council of Churches. For the past two years he has been Chairman of that Council's Department of Social Relations.

COMPENSATION FOR JAPANESE FISHERMEN

There has been an exchange of correspondence between the Department of International Affairs and the National Council of Churches of Japan regarding the Japanese fishermen who were injured as a result of the nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands in 1954. The Department extended its heartfelt sympathies to the families of the injured fishermen. This communication was much appreciated within Christian circles in Japan.

It is announced by the State Department that U. S. Ambassador to Japan, John M. Allison has offered, and Japan has accepted, the sum of \$2,000,000 for compensation for Japanese nationals who sustained personal and property damage as a result of the Marshall Island nuclear tests. The Ambassador presented a U.S. note which expressed the "deep concern and sincere regret" the Government and the people of the United States have shown over the injuries suffered by the Japanese fishermen and "the earnest hopes held in the United States" for the welfare and well-being of these injured fishermen. The note also states:

"It is the understanding of the Government of the United States of America that the Government of Japan, in accepting the tendered sum of \$2 million, does so in full settlement of any and all claims against the United States of America or its agents, nationals, or juridical entities, on the part of Japan and its nationals and juridical entities for any and all injuries, losses, or damages arising out of the said nuclear tests."

THE ATOMS-FOR-PEACE CONFERENCE

What may prove to be an event of great historic significance is the projected international conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, to be convened in Geneva, Switzerland, August 8.

Eighty states have been invited, sixty of them members of the United Nations and other, such as Spain, Italy, and Japan, members of various UN agencies.

At the first meeting of the Committee on arrangements on January 17, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold emphasized that "concrete results" were to be sought from the forthcoming conference. He pointed out that whereas the nations had not yet agreed on ways to prevent "the awful destruction of nuclear warfare," they had agreed unanimously to share the peaceful application of atomic energy. This unanimity, he said, was a source for "renewed hope and faith in a time darkened by so much fear and doubt."

As indicated in an earlier issue of the Newsletter the United States and Great Britain have pledged 220 and 44 pounds, respectively, toward the atoms-for-peace program. Moscow has also promised to share Soviet experience with a Soviet plant powered by atomic energy.

All things considered, the projected conference can be thought of as a rift in the clouds of gloom that have darkened our planet during recent years.

U.S. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

At a time when the Congress is debating issues related to the foreign economic policies of our country it is important that Christian leaders inform themselves of the facts.

The League of Women Voters, 1026 - 17th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. has two publications on the broad question of international trade that will be of interest to the readers of the Newsletter:

U. S. Foreign Trade Policy 1776-1955, 10 cents a copy, prepaid, is a short simple story of our foreign trade policy from early days to the present, designed to introduce the subject to those who have previously had little interest in it and to provide an historic background for those who are generally informed on current trade matters.

Pending Trade Issues, 25¢ a copy (prepaid), discusses, among other problems, the matter of currency convertibility, farm surpluses, Buy-American legislation and customs procedures. It relates each of them to the over-all problem of world trade.

The two publications thus approach the trade problem from different angles, but they supplement one another. Used either together or separately they could form the basis for the kind of lively public discussion so desirable when Congress is making up its mind on this matter.